

Application No: 10/753,321  
Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3111

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

#### Listing of Claims

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of alarm management in a communication network equipped with a network management system for monitoring operation of network equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) generating at a network element a compliant alarm report in response to an alarm condition, said report including an alarm token encapsulated between a corresponding pair of extensible markup language tags;
- b) logging said compliant alarm report into a combined alarm report log file, adapted to log compliant alarm reports from a plurality of network elements of said communication network; and
- c) parsing said compliant alarm report using a compliant parser equipped with extensible markup language tag specifications, including performing a look-up query based on an alarm code received in said alarm report for retrieving extensible markup language tags in respect of alarm tokens corresponding to said alarm code.

wherein the pair of extensible markup language tags uniquely identify a category of said alarm condition being reported by said network element.

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24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

at said network management system, identifying a network management function pertinent to said alarm condition based on a specified group of extensible markup language identified in said combined log file; and

triggering execution of said network management function,

wherein said network management function is executed concurrently and independent of operation of other network management functions of said network management system.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein step a) comprises performing a look-up in an alarm code table for identifying said pair of extensible markup language tags corresponding to said alarm condition.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 23, wherein each extensible markup language tag specifies an alarm token name.

28. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 23, further comprising, when said step a) comprises, whenever said network element does not support extensible markup language tags:

generating at said network element a legacy alarm report in response to said alarm condition; and

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logging said legacy alarm report into a legacy alarm report log file, adapted to log only alarm reports from said network element; and

translating said legacy alarm report into said compliant alarm report including said alarm token encapsulated between a corresponding pair of extensible markup language tags.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of alarm management in a communication network equipped with a network management system monitoring operation of network elements using alarm codes compliant with various current or legacy standards, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a compliant alarm report at each network element affected by an alarm condition, said report including an alarm code compliant with a current standard for identifying a category of said alarm condition;

collecting said compliant alarm reports from all network elements of said communication network into a combined alarm report log file; and

parsing said common combined alarm report log file using a parser compliant with said current standard for identifying said alarm condition, including performing a look-up query based on an alarm code received in said alarm report for retrieving extensible markup language tags in respect of alarm tokens corresponding to said alarm code.

30. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 29, wherein said alarm report includes an alarm token encapsulated between a corresponding pair of extensible markup language tags.

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31. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said step of generating comprises providing said network element with an alarm code table that specifies the extensible markup language tag to be used by an alarm reporting function for each alarm code.

32. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said step of generating further comprises, for a network element using alarm codes compliant with a legacy standard:

generating a legacy alarm report and logging said legacy report into a legacy alarm log file; and

translating said legacy report into said compliant alarm report.

33. (New) A method of alarm management in a communication network equipped with a network management system for monitoring operation of network equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

a) generating at a network element a compliant alarm report in response to an alarm condition, said report including an alarm token encapsulated between a corresponding pair of extensible markup language tags;

b) logging said compliant alarm report into a combined alarm report log file, adapted to log compliant alarm reports from a plurality of network elements of said communication network; and

c) parsing said compliant alarm report using a compliant parser equipped with extensible markup language tag specifications,

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wherein the pair of extensible markup language tags uniquely identify a category of said alarm condition being reported by said network element, and each extensible markup language tag specifies an alarm token name.

34. (New) A method as claimed in claim 33, further comprising:

at said network management system, identifying a network management function pertinent to said alarm condition based on a specified group of extensible markup language identified in said combined log file; and

triggering execution of said network management function,

wherein said network management function is executed concurrently and independent of operation of other network management functions of said network management system.

35. (New) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein step a) comprises performing a look-up in an alarm code table for identifying said pair of extensible markup language tags corresponding to said alarm condition.

36. (New) A method as in claim 33, wherein step c) comprises performing a look-up query based on an alarm code received in said alarm report for retrieving extensible markup language tags in respect of alarm tokens corresponding to said alarm code.

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37. (New) A method as in claim 33, further comprising, when said step a) comprises, whenever said network element does not support extensible markup language tags:

generating at said network element a legacy alarm report in response to said alarm condition; and

logging said legacy alarm report into a legacy alarm report log file, adapted to log only alarm reports from said network element; and

translating said legacy alarm report into said compliant alarm report including said alarm token encapsulated between a corresponding pair of extensible markup language tags.